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TRIDENTOPSIS TOCANTINSI, A NEW PYGIDIID FISH FROM BRAZIL

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We have recently received three specimens of a Pygidiid fish from the New York Aquarium to whose tanks they were brought by Karl Griem, in 1937, with a large collection of fishes from the Rio Tocantins, Brazil.

Tridentopsis tocantinsi, new species

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE.—No. 13967, American Museum of Natural History, collected 1937, Rio Tocantins, northeastern Brazil.

Total length, 27 mm. Length to base of caudal, 23 mm.; depth in this length, 6.1; head, 5. Eye in head, 3.2; interorbital, 1.6; snout, 1.1; mouth, 1.5.

Dorsal rays, 10; anal rays, 21.

Body compressed; head depressed, flattish on top, as wide as long. Mouth wide, inferior. Teeth fine, long, conical, curved inward, in three rows in both jaws. A bunch of 10 long spines on opercle and another bunch of 8 on preopercle. Nostrils quite widely separated. No nasal barbels. Two maxillary barbels, the outer reaching to the anterior margin of eye; the inner to the first fourth of the outer. Eye large, lateral, nearer end of opercle than tip of snout. Snout broadly rounded. Fontanel large, kite-shaped, the apex forward. Gill membranes united, forming a large free fold across the isthmus. Dorsal origin slightly behind that of the anal. Pectoral less than head, not reaching half way from its base to the ventrals. Ventrals nearer snout than caudal. Distance between anal origin and tip of caudal, 2.1 in standard length. Origin of dorsal to base of caudal, 3 in standard length.

Color in life, silvery yellow. Color in preservative, yellowish white with a patch of small dark dots on top of the head, some scattering dark dots on the dorsal line before the dorsal fin; a few along the fin bases, and a few more in a longitudinal line from opercle to caudal base. In the smallest (21 mm.) specimen there is an indication of a dark diagonal line from pectoral to anal origin.

Type and two paratypes: 23 mm., 22 mm., 21 mm.

Eigenmann and Eigenmann described the genus *Tridens* in 1889 (Proc. Cal. Acad., (2) II, p. 53) based on the type *Tridens melanops* Eigenmann and Eigenmann, from Içа, Peru. In the same article they described *Tridens brevis*, based on a single specimen of 21 mm. from Tabatinga, Brazil. In Eigenmann's "Pygidiidae" (Mem. Carnegie Mus., 1919–1920, VII, p. 259, ff.) he suggests that these two species should probably be placed in separate genera. The type and only specimen of *T. brevis*, once in the M.C.Z., has been lost for many years.

In 1925, N. E. Pearson reported 20 specimens of *Tridens brevis*, from Lake Rogoagua, Bolivia (Indiana Univ. Stud., 1924 (1925), No. 64, pp. 17–18). G. S. Myers examined these specimens and removed Eigenmann and Eigenmann's *brevis* and Pearson's specimens from the genus *Tridens*, placing them in a new genus *Tridentopsis* on the basis of their much more compact form, greater number of opercular and preopercular spines, presence of a nasal barbel (in *T. pearsoni*) and much greater development of maxillary barbels. He separated them into two species, placing Pearson's specimens in a new species, his genotype, *Tridentopsis pearsoni*. This leaves only the genotype, *Tridens melanops*, in *Tridens*.

Our specimens lack nasal barbels, a character not noted for *brevis*, and which Myers suggests should perhaps be removed from the generic diagnosis.

We have in our collection three specimens of *T. pearsoni*, collected in Santarem, Brazil.

Our specimens differ from both *brevis* and *pearsoni* in the following characters: body depth, length of maxillary barbels, number of dorsal and anal rays. They differ from *brevis* in: number of opercular and pre-

opercular spines. They differ from *pearsoni* in: lack of nasal barbels, length of pectoral (not given for *brevis*), position of eye in head, position of ventrals in body length.